ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The number of pixels of image pickup devices for detecting a focusing status is smaller than the number of pixels of an image pickup device for image-output, or an image pickup size of the image pickup devices for detecting the focusing status is smaller than the image pickup size of the image pickup device for image-output, so that the apparatus for detecting the focusing status that is inexpensive, consumes reduced power, and includes a circuit reduced in size is provided. Two image pickup devices for detecting the focusing status with different optical path lengths are provided with respect to an image pickup device for obtaining an image to be outputted, and subject light intended to be incident on the image pickup device is split to be incident on the image pickup devices for detecting the focusing status. Then, focusing evaluation values are obtained based on video signals from the image pickup devices for detecting the focusing status, and the focusing status is determined to be front focus, rear focus, or in focus based on the magnitudes of the focusing evaluation values. As the image pickup devices for detecting the focusing status, CCDs having less number of pixels and smaller image pickup size than the image pickup device for image-output is used.